

REMARKS

Claims 12-27 were presented in this application. Claims 12, 15, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Raith (US patent 6,385,461) in view of Sollner (US patent 5,506,837); and claims 13, 14, and 16-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Raith and Sollner, further in view of Kundu (US patent publication 2005/0239485).

For reference purposes, the cover sheet, PTOL-326, shows claims 1-27 as pending in this application. This is clearly inaccurate.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – (Raith and Sollner)

The rejection of claims 12, 15, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raith in view of Sollner is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons:

15 Raith does not disclose transmitting a VGC-ID (voice group call identification) or a VGC reference on a SACCH (slow associated control channel) of all traffic channels where the VGC is ongoing, as required by independent claims 12 and 27. Raith merely discloses sending a user group identification (UGID) code to initiate or identify a group call associated with a particular UGID. It is not seen where Raith discloses that the
20 UGID is sent on a channel associated with all traffic channels where a group call is ongoing.

The Examiner has acknowledged only that Raith does not mention sending information on the SACCH, but has asserted that it would be obvious to modify Raith with Sollner's teaching of sending information on a SACCH "in order to provide GSDM system to measure signal strength and bit error rate of the selected channel of each mobile station easier (see suggested by Sollner on col. 6, lines 1-5)." Since Sollner discusses his invention in the context of the GSM system, it is inferred that the Examiner meant GSM instead of GSDM.

30 The Examiner's assertion of obviousness is not well founded because Sollner's teaching of sending broadcast-channel-frequency information on a SACCH is unrelated to Raith's purpose of sending an UGID. Raith's disclosure of sending an UGID for the

purpose of initiating or identifying a group call associated with a particular UGID does not provide any motivation for modifying Raith's system with Sollner's teaching of sending information on a SACCH in order to more easily measure signal strength and bit error rate of a selected channel of each mobile station of a GSM system. Since these 5 references have different purposes, neither of which matches the purpose of Applicants' method and system, there is no motivation for a person skilled in this technical field to combine them. This is especially true where, as here, that combination would not then make claim 12, 15, and 27 obvious, even if such a combination could be made.

In addition, Raith does not disclose triggering via a mobile switching center a 10 request to send a VGC-ID or a VGC reference to group members, as further required by independent claims 12 and 27. Raith merely discloses sending a request for a group call (col. 1, lines 45-54); sending a request to participate in an established group call (col. 4, lines 13-34, and claim 9); sending a request for information associated with selected one or more UGIDs for previewing an established group call before engaging in the 15 established group call (col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 1, and claim 23); and sending a request from a group operator to a particular user to enter the group call (col. 8, lines 25-29).

Claim 15 is allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above for traversing the rejection of claim 12, upon which claim 15 depends.

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Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – (Raith, Sollner, and Kundo)

The rejection of claims 13, 14, and 16-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Raith in view of Sollner and further in view of Kundu is respectfully traversed for at least the same reasons as set forth above for traversing the rejection of 25 independent claim 12, upon which all of claims 13, 14, and 16-26 ultimately depend.

CONCLUSION

Applicants do not necessarily agree with any of the Examiner's comments regarding the applicability of the cited references to any of the claims. However, in view 30 of the reasons presented herein for traversing the rejection of claims 12 and 27, Applicants are not presenting additional arguments for traversing the rejections of the

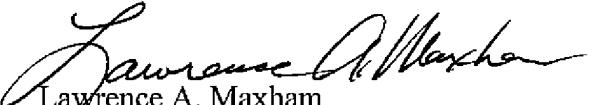
other claims at this time. Applicants reserve the right to present additional arguments for traversing the present and any future rejections of the claims.

Reconsideration and early passage to allowance of all claims in this application are respectfully requested. Should any issues remain unresolved, Examiner Trinh is
5 invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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